



**PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, March 11, 2025**

9:00 to 12:00

**Rogue Conference Room, Oregon Water Resources Department, Salem, OR
with Online Video/Phone Conference option**

A. Call to Order and Introductions (9:00)

Committee Members In Room: Richard Smith, Dave Noble, Eric Schneider, Steve Patten, Robyn Cook

Committee Members Online: Brandon Brown, Zach Freed (departed approximately 10:00am)

Staff Presenting: Justin Iverson, Linda Ray, Bryn Hudson, Jake Zelenka, Chris Kowitz, Tessa Willburn, Tim Seymour, Kelly Mainz, Jason Spriet

Staff attending: Kris Byrd, Annette Liebe

Members absent: Ken Bentz

Recording: <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=160>

B. Selection of Committee Chair and Co-Chair for 2025 (~9:05)

Richard nominated Zach to serve as GWAC Chair. Seconded by Dave, the vote was unanimously approved.

- **Richard Smith – yes**
- **Brandon Brown - yes**
- **David Noble – yes**
- **Steve Patten – yes**
- **Robyn Cook – yes**
- **Eric Schneider – yes**

Richard volunteered to take on the role of GWAC Co-Chair. Seconded by Steven, the vote was unanimously approved.

- **Brandon Brown - yes**
- **Zach Freed – yes**
- **David Noble – yes**
- **Steve Patten – yes**
- **Robyn Cook – yes**



- Eric Schneider – yes

Recording: <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=403>

C. Approval of September & December 2024 Meeting Summaries (~9:05)

Dave made a motion to approve the September & December 2024 meeting summaries. Seconded by Richard, the motion was unanimously approved.

- Richard Smith – yes
- Brandon Brown - yes
- Zach Freed – yes
- David Noble – yes
- Steve Patten – yes
- Robyn Cook – yes
- Eric Schneider – yes

Recording: <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=518>

D. Start Card Fee Update (~9:10)

Jake Zelenka, Fiscal Manager, presented the annual start card fee update to the committee.

Recording: <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=629>

Questions and Conversation: <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=1315>

E. Legislative Update (~9:25)

Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator, summarized some of the groundwater-related bills being considered in the 2025 Legislative Session.

Recording: <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=1588>

Questions and Conversation: <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=2623>

Staff report on this topic to the Water Resources Commission:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/vault/vault.aspx?Type=WrdNotice¬ice_item_id=33646



F. Backflow Prevention Device Requirements in the Umatilla Basin (~9:45)

Chris Kowitz, North Central Region Manager, and Tessa Willburn, Assistant Watermaster, presented on the department's effort to inspect backflow prevention devices installed on groundwater irrigation systems in the Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) that utilize chemicals or fertilizers.

Recording: <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=3029>

Questions and Conversation: <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=4198>

G. Break (~10:15)

H. Division 512 (Harney Basin Critical Area) Rulemaking Update (10:30)

Tim Seymour, Assistant Groundwater Section Manager, Kelly Mainz, Water Policy Analyst, and Jason Spriet, East Region Manager, updated the committee on numerical groundwater model simulation results and presented a proposed CGWA management plan.

Recording, Part 1 Model Simulation Results:

<https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=5487>

Questions and Conversation (checkpoint 1, 10:56):

<https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=7061>

Recording, Part 2 Management Scenarios and RAC Feedback (10:59):

<https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=7205>

Recording, Part 3 Implementing Curtailment (11:16):

<https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=8279>

Recording, Part 4 Fiscal Impact (11:23):

<https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=8708>

Questions and Conversation (checkpoint 2, time):

<https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=9256>

Recording, Part 5 Rulemaking Schedule (11:37):

<https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=9592>



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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Staff report on this topic will be presented to the Water Resources Commission on December 11th or 12th, 2025.

Rulemaking webpage:

<https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/WaterRights/WRIS/Pages/default.aspx>

I. Public Comments (None) <https://youtu.be/eGWJdLUy8b4?t=9861>

J. Adjourn (11:43)

Dave made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve, the committee unanimously approved to adjourn.

- **Richard Smith – yes**
- **Brandon Brown - yes**
- **Zach Freed – yes**
- **David Noble – yes**
- **Steve Patten – yes**
- **Robyn Cook – yes**
- **Eric Schneider – yes**

Summary compiled by Linda Ray and Justin Iverson